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THE ABORIGINES.

While we cannot but look with horror upon the present brutal and murderous outbreak of the children of the forest upon the southern frontier, and while we consider it the duty of our government promptly to oppose their aggressions, and to protect our fellow citizens from inhuman butchery, we cannot but regard those Aborigines of this country, so mysterious in their origin, so singular and unique in their habits and manners, and apparently so doomed by the fiat of fate to utter ruin—we cannot we say, but regard those Aborigines with sentiments of pity. And it is impossible for an impartial observer to consider what they now are, without finding extenuating pleas for their conduct. They were once, it must be recollected, the sole occupants, and, if possession from time immemorial constitutes a valid charter, the only rightful proprietors of this vast territory, extending from the extreme regions of frost on the North, to Cape Horn on the South, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Through those almost interminable forest grounds they roamed without any invader, or an intruding foe, to dispute their dominion! From the centre all round to the sea, they were monarchs of all they surveyed.

But civilization came across the "big waters," and made a lodgement in the wilderness in the midst of the barbarism. Industry levelled the sturdy veterans of the forest, which had, for ages untold, stood untouched by the woodman's axe. The sunlight was let in upon the darkness of the native wild, vegetation sprung up from the bosom of barrenness, the landscape appeared with a rich and variegated carpet, cities, villages and hamlets flashed out in the cloudless and glorious effulgence of an unshadowed sky, and the hum of a dense and busy population awakened with the breeze of the morning, and was heard on the evening zephyr. To the untutored child of nature these scenes were not familiar; such sound rung not harmoniously in his ear. Better by far did he love to behold the d'ershadowing scenery of the woodlands, and the bounding antelope, and to hear the shrill twang of the bow and listen to the music of the winds as they whistled through the leaves, or thundered in majesty along the forest glides. The red men shrunk away therefore from the borders of civilization into the deeper and darker recesses of the wilderness. But, as they retired, civilization in its onward march approached, and laid open their retreats and their hunting grounds, and their wigwams one after another in rapid succession to the blaze of day, until they were at length provoked to stern resistance. It was then that the wretched fury of their savage nature broke out in acts of most brutal vengeance and retaliation. It was then that they seized the tomahawk, the scalping knife and firebrand, and burst with the startling war whoop upon the population who had supplanted them, men, women and children were seized at the altar of their homes, and there ruthlessly butchered, while their burning dwellings as a funeral pyre, lighted up the darkness of the night. Yet their resistance was in vain.

They quail before the superior skill and discipline of their enlightened and rapidly increasing invaders, and although they have rallied from time to time their shattered forces, and their weakened energies, under the direction of a Pontiac, a Tecumseh, a Black Hawk and others, yet they have gradually faded away like the waning splendor of departing day, and now present the melancholy spectacle of a few broken and enfeebled bands hovering on the very outskirts of a mighty nation, whose towns, and villages and cities have sprung up from the soil which they once owned, and over which they once roamed in the proud majesty of uncontrolled monarchs. Yet weak and broken and scattered as they are, occasionally, as they have in the Seminole war, put forth in acts of energy they have left, and it is not too visionary to imagine that they will still continue to perpetrate their brutal butcheries until they exasperate their more powerful foe to level at them a blow of total extermination; and then, a few years hence perhaps the last band of dark warriors shall take their stand, like the brave Spartan band, in some Thermopylean pass of the Rocky Mountains, and shall there hold their aggressors at bay, until the last drop of Indian blood is shed. If the annals of the past be any correct criterion whereby to form a judgment as to the occurrence of future events, such seems to be the destiny that awaits the aborigines of this country. "Sic gloria transit mundi."

Now are there no extenuating pleas for their conduct? Instead of being nurtured in the shades of civilization, where from the very nursery we had been taught to regard the red men as a sort of incarnate demon, if we had happened to have been brought up in the wigwams of the wilderness, to hear the stern warrior, while in the pride and dignity of his untamed nature, he dashes the startling tear from his eyelashes, tells over the story of his wrongs, and how his possessions, had from one pretext or another, been wrenched away from him by the all-grasping ambition or avarice of the white, should we not have entertained ideas different from those which we

now entertain? Would it have been difficult for us in such a case to have found extenuating pleas and even commendable reasons for the opposition of the Indian to the gigantic strides of the invader; his infuriated brutality always excepted?

Who would not have done as he has done? Who would have laid down arms and given up the contest until it his last strong hold—until his last citadel of refuge and defence was stormed and taken? Not a man we will venture to say—not a single man. We are accustomed to regard our fathers with sentiments of admiration, when to resist the aggressions of the mother country, they staked "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor," and resolutely jeopardized every pecuniary and social interest, for freedom from the thralldom of oppression. Why can we not, then, with a commendable disinterestedness, transfer some regard to those Aborigines, who are struggling, not to resist the payment of oppressive taxes, but for the possessions of that soil, which they have inherited from time immemorial and which unless might constitutes right, is upon principles of immutable justice, theirs and theirs alone? If we act upon the noble and consistent motive of "doing unto others as we would that they should do unto us," we shall thus regard the present struggles of the savages at the south, and, while we consider it the duty of the country to protect its frontier, and prevent the ruthless butcheries of an Indian invasions, we shall, at the same time, deprecate that hot spirit of retaliation, which would exterminate the race of the Aborigines for those offences, for which as we have seen, there appear to be so many and such plausible palliations.—*Pittsburgh Visitor.*

ANCIENT CAVERN.

On the Ohio, twenty miles below the mouth of the Wabash, is a cavern, in which are found many hieroglyphics & representations of such delineations as would induce the belief, that their authors, were, indeed, comparatively refined and civilized.

It is a cavern in a rock, or ledge of the mountain, which presents itself to view a little above the water of the river, when in flood, and is situated close to the bank. In the early settlement of Ohio, this cave became possessed by a party of Kentuckians, called "Wilson's Gang." Wilson, in the first place, brought his family to this cave, and fitted it up as a spacious dwelling, erecting a sign post on the waters' side, on which were these words—"Wilson's Liquor Vault and House of Entertainment." The novelty of such a tavern lured almost all the boats descending the river to call for refreshments and amusement. Attracted by these circumstances, several idle characters took up their abode at the cave, after which it continually resounded with the shouts of the licentious, the clamor of the riotous, and the blasphemy of the gamblers. Out of such customers, Wilson found no difficulty in forming a band of robbers, with whom he turned the plan of murdering the crew of every boat that stopped at his tavern, and of sending the boats, manned by some of his party, to New Orleans, and there sell their loading for cash, which was to be conveyed to the cave by land, through the states of Tennessee and Kentucky; the party returning with it being instructed to murder and rob on all good occasions, on the road.

After a lapse of time, the merchants of the upper country began to be alarmed, on finding their property make no returns, & their people never coming back. Several families and respectable men, who had gone down the river, were never heard of; & the losses became so frequent that they at length raised a cry of individual distress and general dismay. They naturally led to inquiry, and large rewards were offered for the discovery of the perpetrators of such unparalleled crimes. It soon came out, that Wilson, with an organized party of forty-five men, was the cause of such waste of blood and treasure; that he had a station at Hurricane island, to arrest every boat that passed by the mouth of the cavern, and that he had agents at Natchez and New Orleans, of presumed respectability, who converted his assignments in to cash, though they knew the goods to be stolen, or obtained by the commission of murder.

The publicity of Wilson's transactions soon broke up his party; some dispersed, others were taken prisoners and he himself was killed by one of his associates, who was tempted by the reward offered for the head of the captain of the gang.

The cavern measures about twelve rods in length, and five in width; its

entrance presents a width of eighty feet at its base, and twenty-five feet high. The interior walls are smooth rocks. The floor is very remarkable being level through the whole length of its centre, the sides rising in stony gradations, in the manner of seats in the pit of a theatre. On a diligent scrutiny of the walls, it is plainly discerned that the ancient inhabitant sat a very remote period, had made use of the cave as a house of deliberation and council. The walls bear many hieroglyphics well executed, and some of them represent animals, which have no resemblance to any now known in natural history.

This cavern is a great natural curiosity, as it is connected with another still more gloomy, which is situated exactly above, sealed by an aperture of about fourteen feet which, to ascend, is like passing up a chimney, while the mountain is yet far above. Not long after the dispersion & arrest of the robbers, who had infested it, in the upper walls were found the skeletons of about sixty persons, who had been murdered by the gang of Wilson, as was supposed. But the tokens of antiquity are still more curious and important, than the description of the mere caves, which are found engraved on its sides within.

In this cave, it appears, that in addition to numerous familiar animals & devices, there are sketches on the rock the figures of several animals now extinct, among which are three, much resembling the elephant, the tail & tusks excepted. It would be passing the bounds of credulity to suppose the artist who delineated these figures, would represent no less than eight animals, differing in their configuration, one from the other, which had in reality no being, and such as these had never been seen.

RIOT IN PHILADELPHIA.

The Philadelphia Inquirer of yesterday, says:—"The vicinity of Arch-street and Schuylkill Fifth and Sixth streets, was on Wednesday last the scene of a most mortifying & disgraceful riot; disgraceful alike to those engaged in it, & to the city which it disgraced. It appears that a law has been obtained from the Legislature, authorizing the congregation who owned the burying ground on Arch street, to sell the front lots for building on. This they have done, and the graves have been steepled to be opened and the bodies to be thrown into a ditch or put in the centre of the square, precisely where a street is laid out to be opened in a short time. Those who had friends interred there, and were aware of what was doing proceeded to disinter the bodies in a suitable manner, and the remainder subjected to the usage we have described, which roused a mob of several hundred persons who were justly scandalized at this new and wanton violation of the grave. The vestrymen of the congregation were threatened with horrible treatment if they came near, and on the clergyman visiting the vicinity he was told if he approached he would be buried in the trench."

The assembled multitude proceeded to fill up the pit, and broke every tool and cart employed by the workmen, the latter being ill treated and driven from the ground. Such are the facts as we gathered them on the spot yesterday; every unknown person who came near, ran the risk of being taken for a vestryman, and tarred and feathered. The circumstances have aroused the feelings of the people to an uncommon degree, and a crowd was collected there yesterday morning to prevent further violations. We forbear comment. This case, and the fact that at the corner of Sixth & Vine st. on Penn. Square, a similar scene is going on, or to be enacted, the law having decided that burying ground to be long to the city, are sufficient to rouse the public mind to the necessity of having interments hereafter, always in the country. The laudable undertaking of a cemetery at Laurel Hill is exceedingly well timed, though we may regret that it was not undertaken fifty years since. Better late than never.

The above statement, if incorrect in a single particular, will be cheerfully corrected, but we have rather underrated than exaggerated it.

THE INCENDIARY.—A letter from Washington to the editor of the U. S. Gazette, gives the following information—

"It is said that doctor White who has been arrested, was a resident of the city at the time when the treasury was burnt—and that on the very day when that event occurred he sold off his furniture and prepared himself to quit the city, and that, immediately after the fire he disappeared. Suspicion

has been for a long time fixed upon him, and I am told that officers have been in quest of him with secret warrants, ignorant themselves of the of fence with which he was charged, and who, had they taken him, might have found it difficult to detain him, as special warrants, so far as my knowledge extends, have never been deemed of sufficient authority to hold a man in bondage. It is said that the building was entered by false keys for the purpose of applying the fire, & that these keys were made in Providence, or one of the eastern cities. So far the voice of the rumor goes. We are very anxious to have farther developments of this nefarious business. At present all that is said as to the motive which actuated the individuals who are implicated in the crime, accords with what I have already communicated. It was designed to cover the perpetration of the pension frauds, by the commission of an act which would at once destroy all the records which could be testimonies in the case."

NOTES IN THE CAPITOL.

SENATE, Thursday, March 31.
The most animating incident in the Senate to day, was a lively & flowery eulogy, by Mr. Walker, on the squatters on the public lands. Mr. Walker's style of oratory is altogether of the school of Phillips, the Irish orator, somewhat flippantly animated, & negligently flowery, the blooming and chromatic wreath being intermingled like the shamrock of Ireland, and the thistle of Scotland, with now and then a thorn, or some other random irregularity. Mr. W. argued for some time to show that all our forefathers, the New England Pilgrims, Columbus & Adam himself were squatters. He de-seated with high wrought poetry on the circumstance that all or nearly all the human race are squatters, and the American nation a nation of squatters. The audience were greatly diverted. They appeared to be almost sensible that their origin had not been so proud and so high above ground as they had imagined. They seemed almost in the mood of hopping and singing, and some in the gallery began to move their feet as if actually metamorphosed into frogs. The hammer of the chair brought them back to their seats.—*Metropolitan.*

OPENING OF THE RAIL ROAD.

The Winchester and Pontiac Rail road was formally opened, in accordance with previous notice, on Thursday last, the 31st ult. The ceremonies were in a high degree interesting and imposing.

The locomotive *Tennessee*, with the Passengers Cars, having come down to the Committee of Arrangements early in the forenoon, received at Harpers Ferry the President and some of the Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, and sundry other invited guests. The locomotive *Thomas Jefferson*, belonging to the Baltimore Company having been loaned to this company for a few weeks, was placed on the track in the rear of the *Tennessee*, and to the Jefferson a train of fifteen burden cars were attached; the Harpers Ferry Band were stationed on the passenger cars, and over the whole a number of flags were waving. The procession, thus formed, moved off in grand style about the middle of the day; and, after stopping at divers points to take up guests, arrived at Winchester about 3 P. M. The entrance to Winchester was magnificent. The immense crowd that lined the railway for nearly a mile out of town—the waving of flags both among the spectators and on the cars—the animating music which the band had struck up—the immense velocity with which we were moving—and the repeated thunders of artillery—all these, together with the associations naturally called up, conspired to render the scene indelibly grand and exhilarating.

A large audience was soon seated in the spacious depot, where, on a platform composed of boxes, casks, &c., filled with merchandise, and destined for the Far West, a very neat and appropriate address was delivered by the President, John Bruce, Esq. He was replied to briefly by Philip E. Thomas, Esq. President of the Baltimore Company.

The procession then moved on foot to the Virginia House, kept by Mr. George Aulick, and sat down, about half past 6 P. M. to a most elegant and sumptuous dinner. The table was laden with every luxury of the season, served up in superior style. No exertion and no expense seemed to have been spared by the worthy landlord, to minister to the various tastes of his numerous guests. About 130 partook of the splendid repast.

Virginia Free Press.

THE SILK CULTURE.

Extract of a letter from Dr. Thomas White of Mt. Pleasant, to a citizen of Steubenville, Ohio, dated

Mr. Pleasant, Dec. 13, 1835.

Dear Sir—Your's of the 4th inst. came duly to hand; and in reply, I am happy to inform you that I have succeeded very well—and am fully convinced that the culture and manufacture of Silk will, before long, become one of the most important pursuits that have ever claimed the attention of our citizens. In my view, there are three reasons why it should become so.

1st. It must, and will most inevitably, become a great source of wealth to all who turn their attention to it, especially to the farming part of the community, if they can be encouraged to engage in it. To them it will be attended with but little expense to raise the cocoons—a female of an ordinary constitution will be able to tend from 30 to 45 thousand worms, which if well fed and properly taken care of, will yield from ten to 15 bushels of cocoons, for which we will give them from \$4 to \$5.50 per bushel, according to quality; or manufacture them into goods, agreeably to order. Good cocoons will yield one pound of reeled silk per bushel; each pound will make twelve square yards of good substantial goods, worth from \$1 to \$1.50 per yard. Thus 30 thousand worms will produce ten pounds of silk or 120 yards of goods; and supposing it takes two thirds to pay for the manufacture, it will leave the producer forty yards of goods; and counting the labor at one dollar per week for five weeks, (which will be the time employed) will reduce the price of the silk goods to 124 cents per yard, or 150 per pound. Now I would ask you, and every farmer in our country by what means can our females clothe themselves cheaper than by leading a silk worm? I know of none. It is only the business of 3 weeks for a female to provide herself with forty yards of goods worth more than one hundred and twenty yards of the best cotton goods she can find in the market—these are no visionary dreams; but practical facts founded upon experience. The season is raised enough for about three hundred yards of silk which did not cost me more than 124 cents per yard to raise the cocoons, counting my labor at one dollar per day, and the labor of one hired female and my daughter each at one dollar per week. It is the tedious process of manufacturing silk, that will, for a time, make it expensive—but this expense falls on the manufacturer, not on the farmer or silk grower. As it respects the food for the worms I cannot see any great superiority that the Italian leaf has over our native leaf. I am inclined to believe that the principal advantage the Italian has over the native, is that they can be brought into use quicker, as they are much more thrifty in their growth than our native trees. I fed mine this season principally from the native tree, and expect to feed as many as one million next season from the same source, my grove of Italian trees being too young to yield much food. Our native tree of the middle size will produce food enough for three thousand worms, or a pound of silk per tree—each tree that a farmer may have, is worth more to him than two sheep."

SWEET POTATOES.

In Louisiana the planters raise their sweet potatoes thus. They make a bed of fresh stable manure, as you would a hot bed for forcing other vegetables—on this bed they lay their seed potatoes, with out cutting, about eight or ten inches apart, and cover them well with rotted manure, or compost made very fine, to the depth of six inches. The potatoes will soon sprout and come up. When two or three inches high, they draw the sprouts by running the finger down the potatoes, and breaking them off there. These sprouts they transplant in a hill with a dibble, and if the earth is not sufficiently wet, water the plant two or three times. A gill of water to a plant will be sufficient for a watering and in five or six days the plant will have taken root. Care must be taken to insert the plants as deep in the hill as they were in the bed when drawn.

By this mode of the bedding and transplanting, larger and more abundant crops are obtained. A bushel thus bedded will plant five acres of ground.

Attie Dancing.—Whilst I sat on the steps of the temple of Theodos, a company of women collected below, and began the attie dance, to the sound of a crazy violin; the music was monotonous, but not unwhispering. The costume of the females at Athens, and indeed, throughout Greece, is more remarkable for its richness than its elegance, to have any thing to fit is the last idea that appears to enter their heads; but in this, perhaps, they have copied the Turkish women, who never present any other object to the eye than what may be distinguished in a bale of cotton. The feet are put into a pair of slippers, which effectually prevent any thing like agility in the movements. The Greek figure, is however, sometimes set off with an open jacket, laced with buttons from the shoulder to the waist, and the head in

variably enveloped in a brilliant colored handkerchief, folded gracefully enough in the style of a turban, and from it is often suspended a rich metal fringe. The rest of the figure might pass for any thing, from a hay stack to a gate post. All the beauty of the Grecian women like potatoes, shoots from the eyes! This goodly company which called forth these observations began the dance by moving slowly in one circle, making one retrograde step for about every four in advance. All hands being linked, the movements, though slow, was graceful, but without the least variety. The dance had neither beginning or end; and the performers, in or drop off at pleasure.

Greece and the Levant.

THE BIBLE.

A small pamphlet has been published at Providence, entitled, "Testimony of Washington and of the Congress of 1776, in favor of the Special Providence of God, and the Bible." The following is an extract:—"In those days of peril, when all intercourse with the parent nation was cut off and the advantages for printing in this country small, Bibles were in great demand."

In 1777, Congress answered a memorial, by appointing a Committee to advise as to the printing of an edition of 30,000 Bibles.

The committee, finding it so difficult to find paper and types, recommended Congress—"The use of the Bible being so universal, and its importance so great, to direct the committee of Commerce to import, at the expense of Congress, 20,000 Bibles from Holland, Scotland, or elsewhere, into the different parts of States of the Union;" and Congress ordered the importation.

In 1781, when from the circumstance of the war, an English Bible could not be imported, and no edition could be found as how long this obstruction might continue, the subject of printing the Bible was again presented to Congress, and by them referred to a committee of 3. This committee reported in 1782, recommending to Congress an edition printed by Robert Aiken of Philadelphia. Whereupon it was resolved, That the United States, in Congress assembled, highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking as subservient to the interest of religion, and being satisfied of the care and accuracy in the execution of the work, recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States."

How interesting is such a history of one of the earliest impressions of the holy Bible in English in these United States. What moral solemnity in the fact, as it stands imperishably fixed in the archives of our national council, in the records of Congress of 1782. What an act this considered in reference to the dealings of God in our behalf at the time of our nation's perils! A fact which should be remembered, and told to every child and every young man in the nation at a day when many of the rulers; and the ruled too, would fain despise the book their fathers, nay, the chief men of the nation, honored.

Baltimore American.

THE INDIAN CHIEF, Powhee.—The character of this chief is but little known, and not sufficiently appreciated. He is represented to be a savage of great taciturnity of character, and bold daring. The skill with which he has for a long time managed to frustrate the measures of our government for the removal of the Indians beyond the Mississippi until he has been considered as superior to Black Hawk. Charley Omaha, a chief of the friendly party, interposed difficulties to the execution of his plans, and he uttered such hints. He bore inveterate hatred towards Gen. Thompson, the agent and yet, concealed his antipathies so skillfully, as completely to deceive the agent, and to induce him to consider Powell as personally friendly. General Thompson fell by the hands of Powell. This war of chief was present three days after at the battle of the Onithecouch. It is proper to observe too, that his ought not to be called Powhee, as that is only a nickname. His Indian name is *Oselia*, and by that he should be distinguished. It is apprehended that he will give the Government much trouble if they do not act with that decision and energy that becomes the power and force of the country. The devastation and ruin that he has already caused will not fall short of a million of dollars.—*St. Augustine Herald.*

Laborer.—Davy Crockett, at a public dinner given him in Nacodoches, Texas, on being toasted, is said to have made the following speech: "I am told, gentlemen, that when a stranger, like myself arrives among you, the first inquiry is—what brought you here? To satisfy your curiosity at once as to myself, I will tell you all about it. I was, for some years, a member of Congress. In my last canvass, I told the people of my District, that, if they saw fit to re-elect me, I would serve them as faithfully as I had done; but, if not they might go to hell and I would go to Texas." "I was beaten, gentlemen, and here I am."